



Virginia Green Attractions



Profile:



Johnson's Orchards Bedford, Virginia

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green Attractions** have been thoughtfully planned and designed to minimize their impacts on the environment. This attraction has met the established "core activities" for **Green Attractions** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests. Below is a list of this attraction's "green" activities that guests can expect.

Johnson's Orchards

Johnson's Orchards is a family owned and operated farm. Our farm is located in the foothills of the **Blue Ridge Mountains**, and at the foot of the **Peaks Of Otter**. The 200+ acres have around 7500 apple trees with almost 200 different varieties planted.



Why did we "go green"? *We want to make sure that future generations can enjoy the same lifestyle, breath fresh air, drink clean water and enjoy the spectacular views that the past 5 generations of our family did that lived and worked on the farm. Our goal has always been to be good stewards of our land. We want to leave it in better shape than when we started. Over the years, we have tried to improve the property, some years just maintaining and others going forward. We were commercial fruit growers for years and sprayed before we saw anything. You could not find one worm in our apples. We started selling retail about 25 years ago and found out that people did not mind buying an ugly apple as long as it tasted good and apples with fewer chemicals taste better and are better for the customer as well as us. We started waiting until we saw something before we sprayed. This cut our sprays in half. Now you might just find a worm in our apples but they are sweeter. Some of the other things that we have been doing are listed below.*

CORE ACTIVITIES for Virginia Green Attractions

“☑” This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green facilities. Virginia Green participants *self-certify* that these activities are in place, and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to Johnson's Orchards can expect the following *green practices*:

☑ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green Attractions must provide recycling for their guests and bins and signage should be highly visible. Participants are encouraged to have a comprehensive recycling program, subject to market availability, etc.

- Recycling Glass, Aluminum Cans, Plastic Bottles, Office Paper, Toner Cartridges, Newspapers, Cardboard, Packing Supplies, Fluorescent Lamps, Batteries, and Electronics.
- *Plenty of highly-visible signage informing guests about how to recycle.*
- *We compost waste food by feeding it to the animals!*
- *We return plastic bags to the store!*
- *We use a low impute program for our fruit sprays.*
- *For 20+ years, we have donated fruit to the Society of St Andrews so that they may distribute it to food banks.*



- *For about 20 years, we have done school field trips teaching children where their food products come from. We also teach SOLs and recycling and we show by doing. We separate their food that they do not eat from the paper and the food is fed or recycled through the animals.*
- *Over the last 2 years, Johnson's Orchards and Peaks of Otter Winery have fenced 90% of our creeks, springs and streams to keep livestock out. We have planted over 30 acres of hardwood trees for the wildlife and have been accepted to participate in the bird and wildlife trail. We now have over 50 acres in wildlife preserve.*
- *We installed 2 windmills to aerate the water in our farm ponds.*
- *One of our wells is solar powered.*
- *We have bulk soap dispensers*
- *Instruct housekeeping to save and reuse unopened items*
- *Purchase recycled-content toilet paper and paper towels*
- *We purchase locally-grown produce and organic and sustainable foods*
- *Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment*
- *Use electronic correspondence and forms*
- *Purchase durable equipment and furniture*
- *Reused building materials and those from sustainable sources*
- *Latex paints*
- *Proper recycling or disposal of paint thinners and solvents*
- *Preventative maintenance of appliances, HVAC, plumbing and vehicles*
- *Minimized use of pesticides and herbicides*
- *We use mulch to control weeds.*



☒ **Minimize/Eliminate Styrofoam.** Attractions are encouraged to minimize or eliminate the use of Styrofoam cups and plates in favor of products that are bio-based, paper, or recyclable.

- Disposable containers made from recycled-content paper and plastic

☒ **Water Conservation.** Attractions must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping.

- Preventative maintenance of drips and leaks
- Low flow toilets and low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads.
- Effective landscape management with native and drought-tolerant species
- Discourage water based cleanup
- Minimization of impervious areas
- Vegetative buffers around streams and buffers



☒ **Energy Conservation.** Attractions must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives.

- Use of ceiling fans
- High efficiency HVAC
- Extensive use of natural lighting
- Thermal rated windows and insulation
- Use directional lighting in parking lots and walkways

☒ **Green Events Package.** The facility must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided.

- *We don't typically host events, but green practices are in place at all times!*

For more information on Johnson's Orchards see www.johnsonsorcharads.com or contact Danny Johnson at 540-586-3707 or appleseed@earthlink.net.

For more information on [Virginia Green Lodging](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen) program, www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen or go to www.viriniagreentravel.org.



Virginia Green is a partnership supported by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Tourism Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

